

## ACCESSING DATABASES

5           The invention provides a system and method of managing access to data in a multi-user database environment. The system comprises:- a receiver (48) for receiving data access requests for accessing data in a database system; a register (27) configured for storing an identifier for data services (36) in the database system and, for each data service identified, first data relating to at least one respective data  
10 access function implemented by that data service and second data relating to data service resources relevant to implementing at least one respective data access function; a comparator (24) for comparing a received data access request including at least a data access function requirement and a data service resource requirement with respective first and second data to identify data services capable of accessing  
15 data in accordance with the request; and, a selector (52) for selecting a data service identified by the comparator for data access. The system allows a client application to request a data service in accordance with a functional data access requirement and a non-functional quality of service requirement.

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Figure (3)